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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/635,611 | 08/07/2003 | Yoshihito Asao | Q76555 | 9608 |
| 23373 | 7590 | 04/18/2006 | | EXAMINER |
| SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037 | | | PRESTON, ERIK D | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | | 2834 |

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/635,611 | ASAO ET AL. <i>AM</i> |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Erik D. Preston | 2834 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,11 and 12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/13/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,11 & 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi et al. (US 6317962).

With respect to claim 1, Adachi teaches a stator comprising: A cylindrical core (Fig. 1, #51) including a plurality of slots (Fig. 1, #51a) provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical core and a plurality of concave portions (as seen in Fig. 1) provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical core, and a welded portion (Fig. 1, #51b) in which abutting end faces of the cylindrical core are only partially welded together at the outer circumferential face of the cylindrical core so that the cylindrical core has a lower radial crushing strength at the welded portion than at

other portions of the cylindrical core (which it inherently does), wherein the welded portion lies between two adjacent concave portions of the plurality of concave portions (as seen in Fig. 1); and a coil (Fig. 1, #52) disposed in the slots, but it does not explicitly teach the cylindrical core being made of iron. However, iron stator cores were extremely well known at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form the stator core of Adachi from iron since iron was well known for its high magnetic permeability, and also because it has been held that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention would choose a suitable and desirable material, because it would be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice (In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960)).

With respect to claim 11, Adachi teaches a stator comprising: A cylindrical core (Fig. 1, #51) including a plurality of slots (Fig. 1, #51a) provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical core and a plurality of concave portions (as seen in Fig. 1) provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical core, and a welded portion (Fig. 1, #51b) in which abutting end faces of the cylindrical core are welded, and a notch portion (of the type as seen in Fig. 9, #60) provided in an inner wall surface of one of the slots; and a coil (Fig. 1, #52) disposed in the slots, wherein the welded portion lies between two adjacent concave portions of the plurality of concave portions (as seen in Fig. 1); and the notch portion comprises a linear slit extending only partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron

core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical core (which is inherently true), but it does not explicitly teach the cylindrical core being made of iron. However, iron stator cores were extremely well known at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form the stator core of Adachi from iron since iron was well known for its high magnetic permeability, and also because it has been held that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention would choose a suitable and desirable material, because it would be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice (In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960)).

With respect to claim 12, Adachi teaches the stator of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical iron core includes four notch portions provided in the inner wall surfaces located at intervals of 90 degrees around the inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core (there are slits in every slot of the stator of Adachi).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,11 & 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 5457350 & US 6337530

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erik D. Preston whose telephone number is (571)272-8393. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (571)272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


03/28/2006

DARREN SCHUBERG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800